

the blood level of ketone bodies, defined as the sum total of D- $\beta$ -hydroxybutyric acid and acetoacetate, is raised to between 0.3 and 20mM.

A1 6. (Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the neurodegenerative disorder is selected from the group consisting of neurodegenerative disorders involving inability to metabolise glucose, memory loss in ageing, neurotoxic peptides or proteins, and genetic abnormality.

8. (Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the metabolic precursor is selected from the group consisting of Free Fatty Acids and compounds comprising 1,3-butanediol, acetoacetyl or D- $\beta$ -hydroxybutyryl moieties.

9. (Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the metabolic precursor is a polymer or oligomer of D- $\beta$ -hydroxybutyrate.

A3 14. (Amended) A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the level of ketone bodies produced in the blood is in the ratio 1:1 to 20:1 of D- $\beta$ -hydroxybutyrate to aceto acetate.

A4 28. (Amended) Use of D- $\beta$ -hydroxybutyric acid, acetoacetate, or a metabolic precursor or physiologically acceptable salt of D- $\beta$ -hydroxybutyric acid or acetoacetate for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a

disorder by a method as set out in Claim 1 provided that when the use is of a metabolic precursor that is not racemic hydroxybutyryl carnitine.

29. (Amended) A foodstuff as claimed in Claim 23 for use in therapy.

31. (Amended) A composition comprising a compound selected from those claimed in Claim 15 and poly D-β-hydroxybutyrate together with a physiologically acceptable carrier, in sterile and pyrogen free form.